

FORM PTO-190 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1011-326	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)	
				09/890035	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/IT99/00338		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 22 October 1999		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED Feb 04 April 1999 BAC	
TITLE OF INVENTION COSMETIC PRODUCT CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR MAKING IT					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Martine VOLKA					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>					
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:					
<p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Copy of Form PCT/RO/101; International Search Report; Copy of the Demand; Amendments made after the Preliminary amendment; Report; Copy of written opinion; Reply to the written opinion; and International Preliminary Examination Report</p>					

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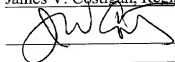
<p>09/890035</p> <p>U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/890035</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/IT99/00338</p>	<p>ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1011-326</p>																															
<p>21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</p>		<p>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">860.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		\$	860.00		\$																										
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<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>565.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>08-1540</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">Amount to be refunded:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>charged:</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </table>		Amount to be refunded:	\$		charged:	\$																									
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<p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: JAMES V. COSTIGAN, ESQ.</p> <p>HEDMAN & COSTIGAN, P.C. 1185 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 2003 NEW YORK, NY 10036-2646 212-302-8989</p>																																	
<p style="text-align: right;">SIGNATURE JAMES V. COSTIGAN</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NAME _____ 25,669 REGISTRATION NUMBER _____</p>																																	

09/890035

Docket No.: 1011-326**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**"Express Mail" Mailing Label # EL740691382USDate of Deposit: July 26, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR '1.10 on the date indicated above and is address to:

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James V. Costigan, Registration No. 25,669

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4/ PRTS

COSMETIC PRODUCT CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR MAKING IT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a cosmetic product container and a method for making it.

5 As is known, cosmetic products such as creams, of the paste or fluid type, solar oils, bath products and so on, are conventionally contained in a lot of different containers such as jars, small bottles or tubes, made of a lot of different
10 materials, such as plastic materials or glass.

Prior cosmetic product containers, however, are conventionally made by combining two or more distinct pieces, and, in particular, they comprise a container body and a respective covering element,
15 which is frequently threaded on the body of the container.

This approach, in which two or more discrete elements must be coupled to one another to provide a finished container, is not considered as
20 satisfactory, from an economic standpoint, since it would be desirable to reduce as far as possible the making and assembling cost of the above mentioned containers, before filling said containers with the cosmetic product to be held therein.

25 In this connection it should be pointed out that the above mentioned problems are further compounded in all the cases in which, because of the nature of the cosmetic product to be handled, it is necessary to also provide an intermediate element,
30 including a throughgoing hole, for providing a metered delivery of the liquid or semi-liquid

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cosmetic products, which further complicates the container construction.

From the above, it should be apparent that it would be desirable to provide a cosmetic product container allowing to solve the above mentioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the aim of the present invention is to provide a cosmetic product container which is made as a single piece, both in a single component embodiment and in a bi-component embodiment thereof.

The above mentioned aim, as well as further objects which will become more apparent hereinafter, are achieved by the present invention which specifically provides a cosmetic product container comprising a container body for a cosmetic product and at least a covering element, characterized in that said container body and covering element are made as a single-piece by injecting at least a component and in that said container body and covering element are coupled to one another by a hinge.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the covering element is provided with a gasket, made of a material different from that forming the assembly constituted by the covering element and container body.

According to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the gasket and covering element and container body assembly are made by a bi-injection of two different components.

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According to another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the container body is open at the end portion thereof opposite to the covering element, thereby said container body can be easily coupled to a bottle or tube.

In this connection it should be pointed out that an opened configuration of the container body would allow the bottle or tube associated therewith to be easily made by a blow molding operation.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the present invention, between the container body and covering element a perforated flat element is arranged, in turn coupled to said container body by a second hinge, the assembly being made as a single piece by injecting either a single component or two different components.

Alternately, the container body is closed, at the end portion thereof opposite to said covering element, thereby providing a jar configuration.

The present invention relates moreover to a method for making a cosmetic product vessel, characterized in that said method comprises at least an injection step for injecting at least a component to provide an assembly including a container body and at least a covering element, coupled to one another by a hinge.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method also comprises a second blow molding step, to define the configuration of the container body.

Finally, the injection step can be made by using two different components, which are processed by a bi-injection apparatus.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further advantages and characteristics of the present invention will become more apparent hereinafter from the following detailed disclosure, provided by way of an illustrative, but not
5 limitative example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, where:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of a cream jar according to a first embodiment of the
10 present invention, in an open configuration thereof;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the cream jar of Figure 1, in a closed configuration or condition thereof;

Figure 3 is a side view of the cream jar shown in Figures 1-2, in an open configuration or
15 condition thereof;

Figure 4 is an axonometric view illustrating a capsule which can be coupled to containers of vial or tube configuration, according
20 to another embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a further axonometric view of a capsule coupled to a vial or small bottle according to a modified embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a detail showing a possible embodiment
25 of a hinge according to the present invention;

Figure 7 is a partially cross-sectioned view illustrating the capsule of Figure 5, in an open condition thereof;

Figure 8 is a further partially cross-sectioned view illustrating the capsule of Figure 5,
30 in a closed condition thereof;

Figure 9 is yet another partially cross-

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sectioned view illustrating the capsule of Figure 5, coupled to a tube, in a closed condition thereof; and

Figure 10 is a side view of a tube provided with a capsule according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the following disclosure, reference will be made to some preferred embodiments of the present invention, which are illustrated, by way of a non limitative example for disclosing different possible variations of the invention.

A first exemplary embodiment of the cosmetic product container according to the present invention is shown in Figures 1-3 and is generally indicated by the reference number 1.

According to this embodiment, the cosmetic product container comprises a container body 2, for holding therein a set cosmetic product, and a covering element 5.

The container body 2 and covering element 5 are made in a single piece, by injecting a first component, and are coupled to one another by a hinge 4.

Moreover, to the covering element 5 a gasket or seal 3 is applied, said gasket being made of a material different from that of the assembly constituted by the covering element 5 and container body 2.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that the gasket 3 and the covering element 5 and container body 2 can be made by bi-injecting two different components.

As shown, the container body 2 is closed at the end thereof opposite to said covering element 5, so as to provide a jar 1.

5 A second embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figure 4 and generally indicated by the reference number 10; in this embodiment, the container body 12 is open at the end thereof opposite to the covering element 15, in turn provided with a gasket 13.

10 Thus, the container body 12 can be coupled to a vial or bottle 30 or to a tube 40.

Also in this embodiment, the container body 12 and covering element 15 are made in a single piece by injecting a first single component and are coupled
15 to one another by a hinge 14.

According to this embodiment, the open container body 12 would allow to provide, by a blow-molding operation, the vial or bottle 30 associated therewith, as is shown in Figure 5, or a tube 40, as
20 is shown in Figures 9-10.

According to a further embodiment of the invention, as shown in Figures 5 and 7-9, and generally indicated by the reference number 20, between the container body 22 and covering element 25
25 is arranged a flat element 26, provided with a throughgoing hole 28 and a gasket 27.

Said flat element 26 is in turn coupled to the container body 22 by a hinge 41, the container body 22 and covering element 25 being coupled by a
30 hinge 24.

Also in this embodiment, the device 20 is made as a single piece, by injecting a single component or, possibly, two different components, in

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the case in which the disclosed gasket elements must be made.

The present invention further relates to a method for making cosmetic product containers.

5 At first, the cream jars 1 can be made starting from a single component, by using an injection apparatus, or, if a gasket 3 or other different material must be made, then they can be made starting from two different components, by using
10 a bi-injection apparatus.

In the case of the vials 30 or of the tubes 40, they can be made by a making method comprising a first injection step and a second blowing step.

15 The first injection step can be carried out by a single component or by a bi-component material, as already disclosed, and depending on the result to be obtained with reference to the materials forming the finished products.

20 The blowing step will define the type of the finished product, which can comprise either a vial 30 or a tube 40.

25 This would mean that, with a same injection pre-mold it would be possible to make, by blowing, different types of vials or bottles 30 and/or tubes 40 having the same volume or slightly different volumes.

From the above disclosure it should be apparent that the invention fully achieves the intended objects.

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CLAIMS

1. A cosmetic product container (1), comprising a container body (2) and at least a covering element (5), said container body (2) and covering element (5) being made as a single piece by injecting a first material and being coupled to one another by a hinge (4), characterized in that to said covering element (5) a gasket (3) is applied, said gasket being made by injecting a second material different from said first material comprising said covering element (5) and container body (2).

2. A cosmetic product container (1), according to Claim 1, characterized in that said container body (2) is closed at a bottom end thereof opposite to said covering element (5) thereby providing a jar container (2).

3. A cosmetic product container, according to Claim 1, characterized in that said container body (2) is open at bottom portion thereof opposite to said covering element (5), to be coupled to a vial (30) or a tube (40).

4. A cosmetic product container, according to Claim 3, characterized in that said vial (30) or tube (40) are made by a blow molding process through said open body (2).

5. A cosmetic product container, according to 1, characterized in that between said container body (2) and said covering element (5) is arranged a perforated flat element (26), coupled to said container body (2) by a second hinge (41), in a single piece with said container body.

6. A method for making a cosmetic product container, according to Claim 1 and 2, said method

comprising the injection of a further material for making an assembly constituted by a container body (2) and a covering element (5), which are coupled to one another by an integral hinge (4, 41), characterized in that said method comprises a further injection of a second material for forming a gasket (3) for tightly coupling said container body (2) and covering element (5).

7. A method for making a cosmetic product container, according to Claim 4, characterized in that said method comprises a step of injection molding said container body (2) and covering element (5), said container body (2) being formed open at the end thereof opposite to said covering element (5) and blow molding through said open container body (2) a cosmetic holding vial (30) or tube (40).

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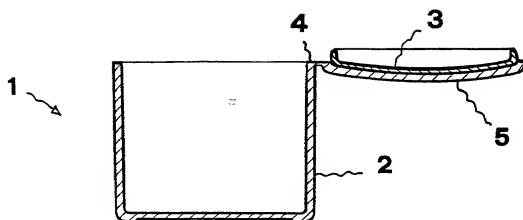


FIG. 1

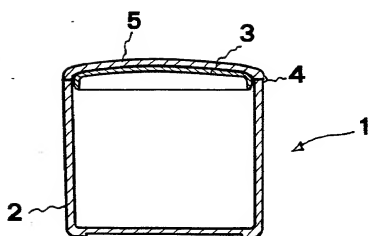


FIG. 2

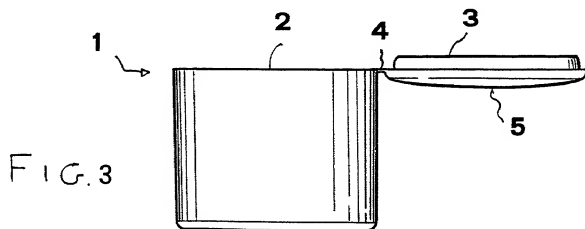
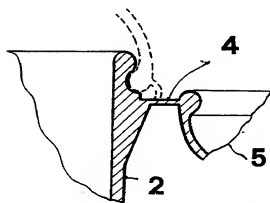
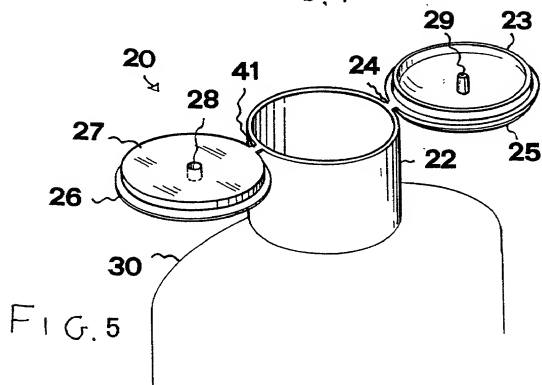
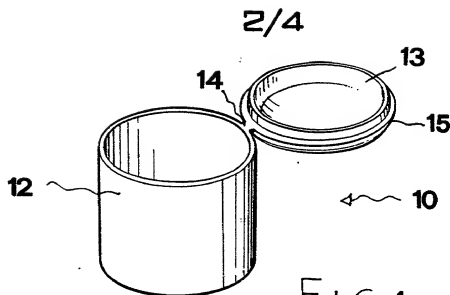


FIG. 3



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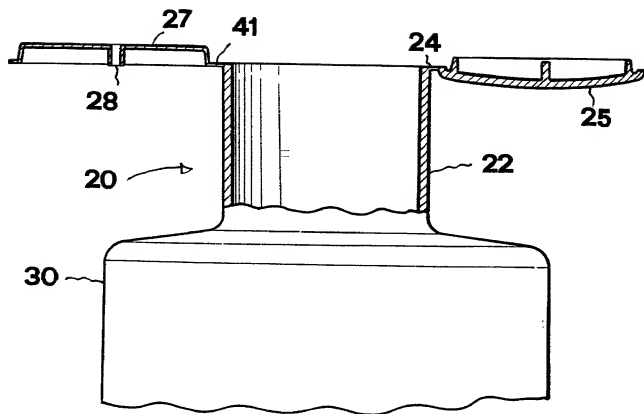


FIG. 7

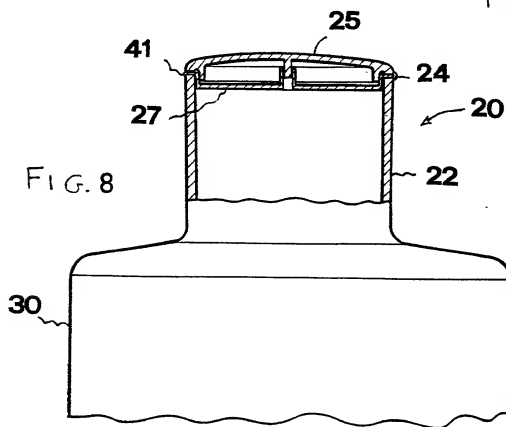


FIG. 8

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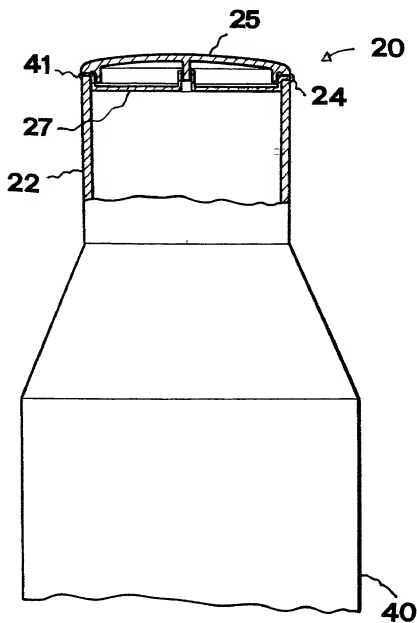


FIG. 9

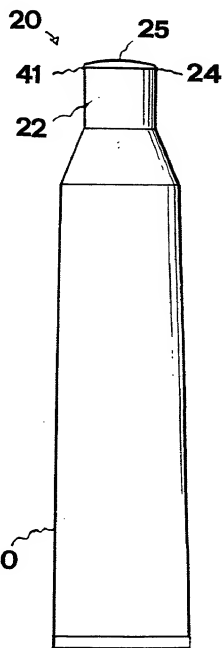


FIG. 10

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Declaration, Power of Attorney, and Petition

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.....COSMETIC PRODUCT CONTAINER AND METHOD FOR MAKING IT.....

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto. ☐ was filed on.....the specification of which
Application Serial No.as
.....and was amended on (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

MI99A 000216	Italy	4 February 1999	Priority claimed
(Number)	(Country)	Day/month/year filed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
PCT/IT/99/00338	PCT	22 October 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	Day/month/year filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	Day/month/year filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.) (Filing date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.) (Filing date) (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint

Edward A. Hedman, Reg. No. 22,120; James V. Costigan, Reg. No. 25,669; Kenneth F. Florek, Reg. No. 33,173; Alan B. Clement, Reg. No. 34,563; and Martin P. Endres, Reg. No. 35,498

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New York, NY 10036

Telephone: (212) 302-8989

my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Full name of sole or first inventor Giovanni Bologna
Inventor's signature Giovanni Bologna Date July 24, 2001
Residence Via Cavour, 53 - 20026 Novate Milanese (Milano) Italy
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Post Office Address Via Cavour, 53 - 20026 Novate Milanese (Milano) Italy

Full name of second joint inventor, if any
Second inventor's signature Date
Residence
Citizenship
Post Office Address

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)